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For Immediate Release October 27, 2015

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Hamilton Southeastern Utilities rate case: Consumer comments invited

Do you want to voice your opinion on the rate increase Hamilton Southeastern Utilities, Inc. (HSE) is requesting? Here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written comments from HSE customers through Wednesday, December 16, 2015. HSE is a privately owned utility providing sewage disposal service to more than 20,000 customers in and near Fishers, Noblesville, and Zionsville.

HSE is seeking Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) approval to raise its flat, monthly sewer rate for single-family residences from \$34.63 to \$37.55. The request would raise the utility's annual operating revenues by just under \$1 million. HSE's current rates were approved in 2010.

In its testimony and exhibits, HSE states it has spent more than \$11 million on system maintenance and repairs over the last five years. The utility is also seeking increases in its one-time system development charges for new customers, along with approval to implement a new fats, oils, and grease charge for certain commercial customers.

For more information on the case, including the utility's testimony, please visit www.in.gov/oucc/2580.htm.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is reviewing the utility's request and has not yet taken a position in this case. The OUCC anticipates completing its review and filing its testimony with the Commission on December 23, 2015.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments may do so via the OUCC's Website at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, or by mail, email or fax:

- Mail: Consumer Services Staff
 Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
 115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
 Indianapolis, IN 46204
- email: <u>uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov</u>

• Fax: (317) 232-5923

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The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than December 16, 2015 so that it can:
1) Consider them in preparing its testimony and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's name, mailing address, and a reference to "IURC Cause No. 44683."

Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

An IURC hearing will be held on a future date to be determined.

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(IURC Cause No. 44683)

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) represents Indiana consumer interests before state and federal bodies that regulate utilities. As a state agency, the OUCC's mission is to represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, and creative problem solving.

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